Contract

Provision of artificial intelligence hardware and software

University of Strathclyde

F03: Contract award notice
Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-006633
Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03614b
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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

University of Strathclyde

40 George Street, Procurement Department

Glasgow

G1 1QE

Email

kirstie.higgins@strath.ac.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKM82 - Glasgow City

Internet address(es)

Main address

http://www.strath.ac.uk/

Buyer's address

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA00113

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Education

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Provision of artificial intelligence hardware and software

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 48900000 - Miscellaneous software package and computer systems

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

The equipment to be procured is state of the art GPU-powered servers that enhance and massively accelerate our data-driven AI research for medicines manufacturing.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 72212900 - Miscellaneous software development services and computer systems

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKM82 - Glasgow City

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The system to be procured is state of the art GPU-powered servers that enhance and massively accelerate our data-driven AI research for medicines manufacturing.

The system shall have:

- GPUs: 8x NVIDIA A100 Tensor Core GPUs

- CPU Specifications: 6912 CUDA cores & 432 TF32 Tensor Cores per GPU

- GPU Memory: 80GB per GPU - 640GB total

- GPU Interconnet: 6x NVSwitch

- Host CPUs: 2x AMD EPYC 7742, total 128 cores / 256 threads

- System Memory: 2TB ECC Reg DDR4

- System Drives: 2x 1.92TB NVMe SSDs

- Storage Drivers: 8x 3.84TB NVMe SSDs

- Networking: 8x single-port NVIDIA ConnectX-6 VPI 200Gb/s Infiniband. 2x NVIDIA ConnectX-6 VPI 200Gb/s Ethernet or 8x single-port NVIDIA ConnectX-7 VPI 200Gb/s Infiniband. 2x NVIDIA ConnectX-7 VPI 200Gb/s Ethernet

- Operatin system: Ubuntu Linux

- Power Requirement: 6.5kW

- Operating Temperature Range: 5ºC to 30ºC (41ºF to 86ºF)

The System (DGX with NVIDIA A100 AI System)to be provided by Scan Computers International Limited meets all of these requirements and is built to a high standard which will in turn maximise it’s up-time and lifespan at University of Strathclyde which will directly the engage the research projects the system will support.

The system is required as soon as possible to support the research timelines required by the University: Nvidia, as key hardware component suppliers, work closely with Scan who are the providers of the assembled GPU servers we require for our research. Nvidia prioritise hardware delivery to Scan and as such, Scan are in a position to deliver the final product in an 8-week timeframe. This is exceptionally fast given current global hardware shortages which are causing large companies and even governments to wait up to 12 months for hardware. This is an essential elements of this purchase.

Uniqueness of Scan offering: Scan will provide after care support not only in terms of support for the commissioning of the hardware but in terms of familiarisation with software platforms which will be required by the research teams at Strathclyde. Via Scan, we will have access to Nvidia’s leading AI experts. This will allow us to unlock the full potential of the hardware in a timely manner which is crucial for delivery on a number of significant, large value (10mGBP) research programmes.

Scan’s ability to assemble the GPU servers and support of the software that runs on top makes them uniquely placed to deliver our bespoke AI, modelling and simulation platform and within the timelines required of our funded research projects, which are already live and in need of the proposed compute resource.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: as per procurement docs / Weighting: 100

Price - Weighting: 0

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

The Contracting Authority reserves the right to request additional deliveries by the Successful Tenderer, either intended as partial replacement of supplies or installations or as extensions of existing supplies and installations.

The Contracting Authority may at it's sole discretion exercise this option.

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition in the cases listed below

- The products involved are manufactured purely for the purpose of research, experiment, study or development

Explanation:

This hardware and software is manufactured specifically to support research within a University environment. This procurement meets the requirements of The Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015. Regulation 33.4(a)

IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure

Notice number: 2022/S 000-023214

Section V. Award of contract

Contract No

N/a

A contract/lot is awarded: No

V.1) Information on non-award

The contract/lot is not awarded

Other reasons (discontinuation of procedure)

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

(SC Ref:725106)

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Glasgow Sheriff Court

1 Carlton Pl

Glasgow

G5 9TW

Country

United Kingdom